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- 2.—*On the Inland Navigation of Travancore ; an account of the Alipee Mud-bank and the Warkallay Barrier.* By C. R. MARKHAM, Esq., Secretary R.G.S.

THE backwaters on the Malabar coast of India form an inland water-communication traversing nearly the whole length of Cochin and Travancore, and continuous from Trivanderum to the railroad at Ponary, except at one point, the Warkallay Barrier. The author visited this spot in December, 1865. The barrier is formed by a spur of the ghauts extending to the sea, about 6 miles broad, with a summit-level of 180 feet. From the backwater on the south of the barrier a ravine runs up to within half-a-mile of the summit of the ridge, and from that on the north there is another ravine which also indents the side of the ridge. A plan for cutting through and tunneling the barrier, to complete the system of inland navigation in this part of India, has been proposed by the Travancore engineer and adopted by the Government.

The mud-bank of Alipee, the Port of Travancore, is a curious phenomenon. The safety of the roadstead arises from its possessing a remarkably soft muddy bottom, and the fluidity of the water being diminished by the intermixture of mud the anchorage is very smooth in four fathoms, even while the swell of the monsoon is at its height in the offing. Its formation, according to the explanation given by Mr. Crawford, the commercial agent of the Travancore Sirkar, is due to the hydraulic pressure of the waters of the backwater on the fine silt of the bottom, forcing it by subterraneous passages under the coast belt of land ; the pressure arising from the level of the backwater being, during the height of the monsoon, four feet higher than that of the ocean. At low-water in this season a series of mud-eruptions are observed to form on the beach.

This paper, with illustrative Maps, will be printed entire in the Journal, vol. xxxvi.

*Sixth Meeting, February 11th, 1867.*

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., President, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS. — *Carleton L'Estrange, Esq. ; D. MacLoughlin, Esq., M.D.*

ELECTIONS.—*Colonel Shafto Adair ; George H. Wilson Brown, Esq. ; E. Butler, Esq. ; Rev. P. Butler (Rector of Ulcombe) ; Leonard Crane, Esq., M.D. ; Charles John Ely, Esq. ; John Langlands, Esq. ; Guillermo*

*E. de Marthin, Esq.* (Consul-General of the United States of Columbia.

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY SINCE THE LAST MEETING.—*Donations.*  
 ‘Report on the Chemical Laboratories in course of erection in the Universities of Bonn and Berlin,’ by A. W. Hofman, LL.D., F.R.S.: presented by the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education. ‘Libro del Saber de Astronomia del Rey Don Alphonso X. de Castile:’ by the Royal Academy of Sciences of Madrid. ‘Notes on a Journey from Bida in Nupe to Kano in Hausa, in 1862, by Dr. W. B. Baikie, R.N.:’ by the Foreign Office. ‘Journal of J. G. Macdonald, Expedition from Port Denison to the Gulf of Carpentaria:’ by the Colonial Office. ‘A Journey to Ashango Land, and further penetration into Equatorial Africa,’ by Paul B. du Chaillu, with map and illustrations: by the author. ‘Index of 17 volumes of Bombay Geographical Society,’ compiled by D. J. Kennedy: by the Society. ‘1619, Viaggi della Valle,’ H. Pellegrino: by Mr. Gibb, F.R.G.S. ‘Interoceanic Railroads and Canals—Reports to the U.S. Secretary of the Navy on Canals and Railways between the Waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans,’ with maps, &c., by R. Davis and G. Wells: by Admiral Davis, U.S.N. ‘Comparisons of Standards of Lengths of England, France, Belgium, Prussia, Russia, India, Australia:’ by the Secretary of State for War. ‘Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft:’ Dr. Ludolf Krehl. Eyles Irwin’s work, ‘A Series of Adventures in the course of a Voyage up the Red Sea in the Year 1717.’

ACCESSIONS TO MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING.—A Sketch-map showing the route of Mr. Colvill from Bushire to the Port of Lingah: presented by the Government of India. Plan of the English Settlement at Shanghae; published by the Municipal Council of Shanghae: presented by J. Pook, Esq., F.R.G.S.

The PRESIDENT informed the meeting that Lieut. Alwin S. Bell, who was stationed with his regiment (3rd West Indian) at Sherbro, on the West Coast of Africa, during the years 1864-5, had communicated to him a letter from the unfortunate traveller M. Jules Gérard, of which the following is a translation. The death of the traveller, by drowning in crossing the river Jong, took place within a month of the date of the letter, and Lieut. Bell adds that it was not known at Sherbro whether the capsizing of the boat was an accident or done intentionally by the natives:—

“Mano, Lat. 8° 10' N., 21 July, 1864.

“MY DEAR M. HUCHARD,—The first chiefs with whom I entered into relations, on my arrival in the Kasso country, having taken me some for a trader and others for a slave-dealer, all used their endeavours to retain me in their dominions, with a view either to sell me slaves or to induce me to establish myself among them. Actuated by these motives, they closed to me the routes into the interior, and concealed the fact that the Kasso people have